

5 November 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. Rear Admiral Sidney W. Souers, USNR, whom you are seeing at noon today, was born in 1892, attended Purdue and Miami Universities, and has been a businessman, principally in New Orleans and St. Louis. During World War II, Admiral Souers served as Assistant Director of Naval Intelligence, and in 1945 he participated in the planning for a post-war central intelligence organization. As a committee of one, he wrote the intelligence recommendations for the Eberstadt report on unification (June 1945).
3. Mr. Souers served as first DCI, from January 22 to June 10, 1946. On his departure from CIG in June 1946, Admiral Souers singled out the personnel problem as a vital one, calling for future solution.
4. Admiral Souers also served as Executive Secretary of the National Intelligence Authority (NIA), 1946-1947, and thereafter as Executive Secretary of the NSC, 1947-1950. Subsequently he served President Truman as special consultant on military and foreign affairs.
5. As DCI of CIG, under the NIA, he not only worked for and with the National Intelligence Authority, but was part of the intelligence structure that the Authority collectively comprehended. His "Group" consisted of "persons and facilities" assigned to him by the National Intelligence Authority from its constituent departments. He had no appropriation nor any right to employ or dismiss independent of the NIA. Under the concept outlined above, however, he did not need these rights. The Central Intelligence Group was a part of, not apart from, the departmental intelligence structure that had emerged from World War II.


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In the opinion of Souers himself: "He set out to establish the Group as a small body of experts drawn from the several Departments, and serving them." How the concept would work out in practice remained to be seen during his directorate. In theory at least, there was no reason why a Central Intelligence Group directed in accordance with such a concept should not accomplish the objectives for which it was designed.

Souers organized the original Central Intelligence Group accordingly. His organization consisted of two units: a Central Reports Staff, and a Central Planning Staff. The first of these was to discharge the Group's responsibility with respect to correlation and evaluation of national intelligence. The other was to deal with the "coordination" of national intelligence activities. Each of these staffs, of course, consisted of persons assigned from and paid by the departments represented in the National Intelligence Authority. The head of each Staff, however, "reported" directly to the Director of Central Intelligence.

6. As Admiral Souers left it, CIG was still a body within the NIA intelligence structure. It could easily become an entity apart from the Group if the Authority were to decide that the problem of postwar intelligence could best be solved by that means, or it could develop as a coordinating mechanism for the total structure of which it was a part. These and other problems were left to his successors -- General Vandenberg (June 1946 -- April 1947), Admiral Hillenkoetter (to September 1950), General Smith, and Allen W. Dulles.

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STANLEY J. GROGAN/
Assistant to the Director

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Remarks: <p>The Director has asked if "our history" covers the period during the time that Sidney Souers was the Director of the Central Intelligence Group. If not, he thought it might be a good idea to have a chapter to include his activities in assisting in the establishment of CIG. If this is covered, the Director would like to know if it was checked with Adm. Souers and whether he was satisfied -- if not checked, why shouldn't it be done.</p>					
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